

# ● PRINTER RUSH ●

(PTO ASSISTANCE)

Application : 10 789 871 Examiner : R. Schilling GAU : 1752  
From: mg Location: HDC FMF FDC Date: 01.17.06  
Tracking #: 10 789 871 Week Date: 10.24.05  
EPM

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[RUSH] MESSAGE: \_\_\_\_\_

— On page 1, line 6:  
Please provide the missing U.S. Patent Application Number.

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Thanks

[XRUSH] RESPONSE: \_\_\_\_\_

*Dane*

INITIALS: *DH*

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REV 10/04

**POLYMER FOAM SURFACE SMOOTHING MATERIALS AND**  
**METHOD**

**CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS**

5 Reference is made to commonly assigned, co-pending U.S. Patent Application Serial Number 10188964 by \_\_\_\_\_ (Docket 84886) filed of even date herewith entitled "SURFACE ROUGHNESS FREQUENCY TO CONTROL PITS ON FOAM CORE IMAGING SUPPORTS", the disclosure of which is incorporated herein.

10 **FIELD OF THE INVENTION**

The present invention relates to imaging media. In a preferred form, it relates to foam core imaging supports for photographic, ink jet, thermal, and electrophotographic media.

15 **BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

In order for a print imaging support to be widely accepted by the consumer for imaging applications, it has to meet requirements for preferred basis weight, caliper, stiffness, smoothness, gloss, whiteness, and opacity. Supports with properties outside the typical range for 'imaging media' suffer low consumer acceptance.

20 Traditional photographic prints, as well as ink jet, thermal and all other reflective imaging methods need to have a smooth surface in order to provide the image viewer with a visually pleasing surface that provides uniform gloss and reflective properties. When prints have a high level of roughness, light will reflect off the surface at different angles in relation to the viewer and therefore 25 present an unappealing image. Such a rough surface may also result in nonuniform exposure of photographic images and result in images that are not sharp.

Another consideration is the opacity of a reflective support. Adequate opacity prevents the show through of the reflective image below the one 30 being viewed in a stack of images or the non white surface that the reflective image is resting on or to which the image is mounted. Given the fact that ink jet,